Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Laura Jane Harwood was born on November 21, 1903, at Mitchell, South Dakota, to Wilfred and Grace Tiesma Harwood, the oldest of five children, and the Harwoods later moved their family to a homestead near Union Center; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered, and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Laura married Earnest Deering Ainsworth in 1921, and to that union two children were born, Harvey Allen and Grace Irene, and they in turn presented them with eight grandchildren and numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Following the death of Earnest in 1929, Laura heroically raised her young children in adverse circumstances during the Depression, living in the communities of Union Center, Piedmont and Rapid City; and,

Whereas, After spending time in southern California with her daughter, Grace, waiting for the return of her son, Harvey, who was serving as a pilot during World War II, she later moved back to Union Center and married Leroy Freeman in 1948; and,

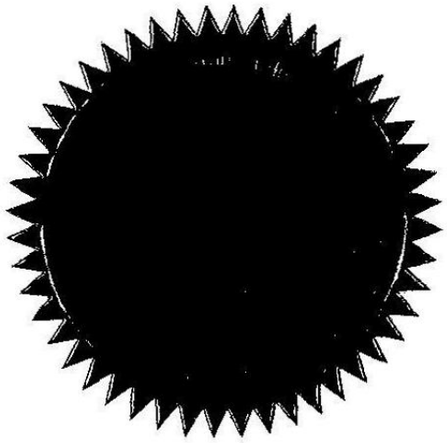
Whereas, Laura and her sisters inherited a talent for tatting and crocheting from their mother and grandmother, Laura also enjoyed gardening, and was always involved in numerous church activities; and,

Whereas, Laura continues to maintain her own home at Union Center, South Dakota, and will observe her 100th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as her friends and relatives gather at the Union Center Community Building on November 22, 2003, to honor her and celebrate her life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a woman who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 22, 2003, as

LAURA FREEMAN DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all her family and friends in wishing her a very happy birthday, good health, and great happiness.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixth Day of November in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State